(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government to notify these units, on the level of pollution emitted by them;

(d) the number of such units still operating, either in chloro-alkali or petro-chemical fields; and

(e) whether Government have any plans to phase out such units, to negotiate these dangerous environmental hazards?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Chloro-alkali and Petro-chemicals units do not figure in the list of industrial source categories with high potential for release of dioxins and furans as identified under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. However, dioxins could be unintentionally formed and released from specific chemical production processes, especially production of chlorophenols and chloranil.

(e) No, Sir.

Impact of mining on ecology in Aravali

2552. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale illegal mining activities are continuing, causing rampant destruction of forests and ecology in the Aravali range;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what proposals Government are planning, to stop such ecological destruction in the area; and

(d) what are the findings of the committee constituted by the Ministry and its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) It has been reported by the State Governments of Haryana and Rajasthan that it would be incorrect to say that large scale illegal mining activities are continuing in the Aravali range and causing rampant destruction of forests and ecology. The Ministry of Environment

and Forests has empowered the State Governments of Haryana and Rajasthan to decide on proposals for environmental clearance under the provisions of Aravalli Notification dated 7th May, 1992 vide Notification S.O. 1189(E) dated 29th November, 1999. As per the provisions of the Notification, the concerned State Governments have constituted Expert Committees for consideration of projects as well as Monitoring Committees to ensure compliance of the environmental safeguards stipulated.

(b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted an Enquiry Committee, *inter-alia*, to assess the impact of mining activities in Manesar, Haryana. As per the report of the Committee, no mining activity has been reported or observed in Manesar village. However, in the surrounding areas of Gurgaon sub-division, of the 52 mines, 21 mines have been granted permission by the State Government and are in operation, 23 mines are not working either because they have not been granted permission by the State Government or closed by directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The matter relating to the remaining 8 vacant mines is subjudice.

Godavari Action Plan

2553. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work on Godavari Action Plan for the forthcoming Kumbh Mela has started at Nasik in Maharashtra;

(b) the contribution made by Government in this project; and

(c) the details of the project and when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A scheme of pollution abatement of river Godavari, which is known as the Godavari Action Plan, is being implemented in three towns of Maharashtra namely, Nasik, Trimbakeshwar and Nanded. The action plan was approved by Government in July 1995 under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). The approved cost of works in these towns is Rs. 95.03 crore. Out of this amount, the cost of works for Nasik and Trimabakeshwar towns is Rs. 80.53 crore. Under the plan in Nasik and Trimabakeshwar, sewage shall be intercepted and diverted for treatment in three sewage treatment plants of 78 million litres per day, 22